



Docket No.: BSX-214.1CIP
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
John E. Hutchins, *et al.*

Application No.: 10/003,678

Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: December 6, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR
POSITIONING AND MAINTAINING THE
POSITION OF ENDOSCOPIC
INSTRUMENTS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned.

A copy of each reference on PTO/SB/08A is attached.

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO/SB/08A is:

☒ [X] not given

☐ [] given for each listed item

☐ [] given for only non-English language listed items

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[] in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. BSX214.1CIP/10103175. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: March 14, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By Steven M. War
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